

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

<i>In the Matter of</i>)	
)	
Advanced Television Systems)	MB Docket No. 87-268
And Their Impact upon the)	
Existing Television Broadcast)	
Service)	
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To: The Office of the Secretary		

**Comments of
Piedmont Television of Macon License, LLC**

Piedmont Television of Macon License, LLC (“Piedmont”), the permittee of digital television station WGXA-DT, Macon, GA, (Facility ID No. 58262) (the “Station”), by its attorneys, hereby submits these comments in response to the Seventh Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“FNPRM”) in the above-referenced proceeding. In the FNPRM, the Commission proposed a new DTV Table of Allotments, providing eligible stations with channels for DTV operations after the DTV transition and specifying certain technical parameters for each station’s DTV operations.¹ Piedmont now requests that the DTV Table be changed pursuant to a minor modification of the Station’s facilities. In support hereof, Piedmont states the following.

Discussion

In the pre-channel election certification process, Piedmont indicated that it would construct “maximization” facilities (FCC File No. BCERCT-10041102ADK). The DTV Table in the FNPRM accurately reflects the technical specifications of the maximized

¹ See Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service, *Seventh Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, MB Docket No. 87-268, FCC 06-150, ¶ 1, Appendices A & B, (rel. October 20, 2006).

facilities as authorized by the Station's construction permit (FCC File No. BPCDT-19991029AFU). The technical parameters set forth in this construction permit were based upon the intended use of a side-mounted antenna, affixed at a certain point on the tower. Now in the final stages of construction, Piedmont finds that, due to structural impediments, it is not feasible to mount the antenna at the previously-designated point and it must lower the mount point by 10 meters, thereby decreasing the height of the antenna above average terrain (HAAT) by 10 meters.² Despite the proposed change, the Station's effective radiated power (ERP) will remain unchanged and therefore, consistent with the prior maximization certification.

Piedmont intends to file an application on FCC Form 301 for a minor modification of its construction permit shortly after the submission of these comments, seeking authority to operate at the lower HAAT. Rather than undertake to amend the DTV Table of Allotments upon grant of this application, after this proceeding has terminated, Piedmont asserts that it is more efficient, and thus, in the public interest, to revise the proposed DTV Table to conform to its proposal now. Accordingly, the DTV Table would be changed as follows:

WGXA-DT (per proposed Table of Allotments)

DTV Channel:	16
ERP:	1000 kW
HAAT:	226 m
Antenna ID:	29738
Latitude:	32-44-58.0 N
Longitude:	83-33-35.0 W

² As previously stated by the Commission, a decrease in HAAT of up to 25 meters requires no interference showing. *See* Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service, *Memorandum Order and Opinion on Reconsideration of the Sixth Report and Order*, MB Docket No. 87-268, FCC 98-24, ¶ 160 (rel. February 23, 1998).

Area: 21,895
Population: 689,000
Interference Received: 0.3%

WGXA-DT (proposed modification)

DTV Channel: 16
ERP: 1000 kW
HAAT: **216 m**
Antenna ID: 29738
Latitude: 32-44-58.0 N
Longitude: 83-33-55.0 W
Area: **21,390**
Population: **678,000**
Interference Received: 0.3%

The contour coverage area and population served by the modified facilities vary only slightly from the facilities currently authorized and contained in the DTV Table. The Commission, though, has previously acknowledged that licensees with facilities utilizing side-mounted antennas face unique technical issues and has even allowed them opportunities to request waivers of its rules within this same proceeding.³ Given this history, Piedmont urges the Commission to give effect to the minor change proposed here.

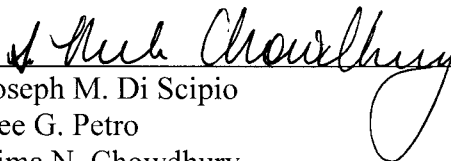
³ See DTV Channel Election Issues- Compliance with the July 1, 2006 Replication/Maximization Deadline, *Public Notice*, 21 FCC Rcd 6540 (rel. June 14, 2006) (addressing concerns of licensees with digital side-mounted antennas unable to meet use-it-or-lose-it deadline).

Conclusion

The proposed change to the Station's facilities will serve the public interest by allowing Piedmont to progress in the provision of digital service to its viewers as soon as possible while minimally impacting the coverage area and population of the Station. Therefore, Piedmont respectfully requests that the Commission modify the DTV Table of Allotments to reflect this change, as described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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